

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 2, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over MCKENNA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,967) in view of PETERS (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,727); and allows claims 1, 3-5, and 8-20. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

By the present amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2, 6, and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-20 remain pending.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 3-5, and 8-20 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over MCKENNA et al. in view of PETERS. Applicants cancel claims 2, 6, and 7 herein thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Since only allowable claims are now pending in this application, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections overcome the rejections, Applicants' silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and

Applicants reserve the right to dispute these assertions/requirements in the future.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 18, 2006

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